



KING'S 45th BIRTHDAY SUPPLEMENT

I WISH TO GO JOGGING WITH KING

By Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe
WITH LOVE

Happy Birthday Wena Waphakathi, I wish I could be there to celebrate the day of your birth, unfortunately it was not meant to be as I was born a few years earlier; and I was too young to be King Sobhuza II's wife, but am so happy to love you as your great-great grand-mother LaNdwandwe.

Silo Sikhulu I thank you for your speeches that have touched my soul since the beginning of this year: firstly when dispersing the regiments at Engabezweni Royal Kraal, you acknowledged the perseverance of King Sobhuza II in preserving our traditions and culture.

The second speech from the Throne was during the official opening of parliament. You emphasised the relevance, importance and significance of people's contributions during Sibaya, our indigenous governance tool.

The third speech was at the 50th celebrations of Waterford/Kamhlaba, you acknowledged King Sobhuza II's wisdom for allowing the school to be built in Swaziland.

Lastly, your Easter speech at the Somhloto National Stadium, where you stated that you are willing to listen when we ask with humility and respect. My birthday wish for you is attaining your vision of Swaziland's First World Status; hence the following five birthday wishes inspired by your openness to listening to those who ask and not demand, as you challenge us to be honest and open to you with respect and humility.

CABINET CALIBRE

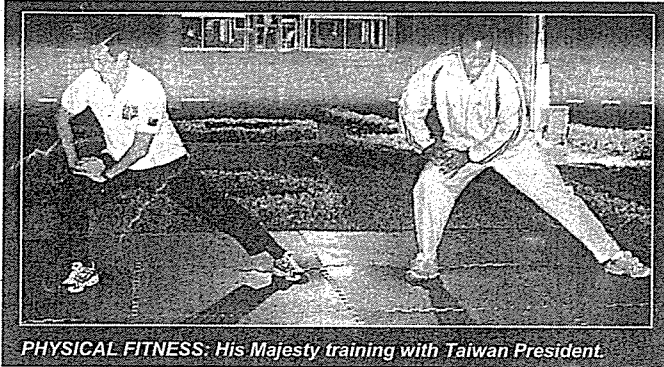
Your Majesty, may I indulge you on the calibre of members of cabinet, as King Sobhuza II used to insist that 'Limuva', the background, is critical in leadership position.

Pardon me if I am wrong, but being a member of cabinet should be an honour for the honourable members of the nation. Therefore, background checks on how honourable, the proposed members of cabinet are is critical; as these are the face of government and the nation throughout their leadership legacies.

Thus inferring that they become role models for young children throughout the country, hence they have to respect the public office and public space that they are afforded during their leadership legacy.

We stand when they enter the room, not because they are popular television personalities or models, but because we have entrusted them with the national flag, our pride. Your Majesty, they must enthrone our national values, hence the national flag on their cars; and are provided with diplomatic passports to dutifully represent us.

Mbhube Yemaswati, their background checks are critical in informing your choice on wherever they have an



PHYSICAL FITNESS: His Majesty training with Taiwan President.

impeccable legacy they have been serving; and how they performed in their last leadership position.

If they do not have a leadership legacy Your Majesty, they will be applying trial and error in the Cabinet, at government's expense; and certainly this will not enable Swaziland to be the First World, as this needs cabinet with service delivery legacy. No one is perfect, but there are members of your nation who have legacies in improving the quality of life.

PROMOTE NATIONAL INTEREST

Your Majesty, to achieve First World Status, government leadership must not be dominated by 'Yes' men and women; this requires principled persons who will question decisions thus ensuring that there is minimal personal interest but national interest.

Personal interests have destroyed many countries, and Swaziland is at high risk at the moment as self enrichment has become the dominant paradigm. This requires principled but not selfish leaders, who will question whether government decisions will improve the Swazis quality life.

Wena Waphakathi, national interest is the only way we can achieve the First World Status, and this requires government leadership with track records of previous achievements; with no corruption and self enrichment allegations, in both public and private sector. Your Majesty, these people do exist in Swaziland, as over the past years your country has witnessed the retirement of an educated calibre of public and private sector Swazi nationals.

To name a few: Make Madzandza Khanya, Ms. Nomathemba Dlamini, Make Edith Fakudze, Dr. Bongile Putsoa, Make Futhi Kuhlase, Siphon Dlamini, Maqhawe Mavuso, Goodman Kunene, Noah Nkambule, King Lukhele and Joe



Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe.

Shilubane; who have served Swaziland, and therefore appreciate and understand that government is for national interest.

Your Majesty your country has educated human capital idling in various sections of Swaziland, which is underutilised; and yet their support as senior citizens with invaluable experience would enrich your vision of Swaziland being the First World.

This human capital will also provide wisdom of hindsight as they have led previously and are now in a position to share lessons learnt which is a significant component for nation building that is driven by national interest and not personal interest.

Mbhube Yemaswati, national interest requires leadership that is 55 years and above, as it begins to tap into its elements of wisdom of hindsight, and not their ego; which can be good, for nation building, but has its own self destructive moments when refusing to acknowledge mistakes.

Your Majesty, national interest is critical in attaining First World Status, hence your leadership list must reflect members of the nation that understand that the government of Swaziland is beyond them and their status.

MULTI-PARTY

Bayethe, I implore the goodness of your heart to consider allowing multi-party system within Tinkhundla System of Governance; as its time to test the maturing of the political development of your nation.

I raise this issue as with or without multi-party in Swaziland; people have formed some comradeship, which is not difference from party politics. Your Majesty your people are politicking every day, even though they are not organised according to political affilia-

tions and this is real.

Ngwenyama Ndvuna, short term political allies exist in the country, which need to be formalised as they can make or break Swaziland; as they are focused on the politics of the stomach, money and handouts being the major attractions. When money and handouts become the focus, essentially they become 'mini manifestos', driving the voters decision-making process; and this amounts to high political risk, which is also unsustainable.

Your Majesty, when voters are mobilised by the highest bidders, it is dangerous reflecting that the elected candidates will be attracted to corruption, in order to maintain their political mileage.

Also when voters vote for money and handouts, it puts a serious question mark on whether we have a reputable governance system or we are selling souls to the highest bidder, inherently anyone with money no matter how unscrupulous can attain political mileage.

Lwandle Lolukhulu, I am not suggesting that this does not happen under multi-party, but at least the political parties have a responsibility to present manifestos, which becomes the basis on voting.

Hence informed voters will hold their leaders accountable for their promises on service delivery and improvement of quality of life that is expressed in manifestos. These manifestos also enable the leaders to compete for government budget resources and donor funding for service delivery and improvement of quality of life projects.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Lastly Your Majesty, I wish to go jogging with you, as I admire your commitment to physical fitness; as a fitness fanatic myself, I appreciate the time you take to keep in shape.

Wena Waphakathi, Swaziland is losing human capital to lifestyle disease and I beg you to encourage the nation to walk, jog, play sport and generally keep in shape.

I wish you be the role model for the nation, so that they find time to exercise, and if you can find the time to do so, no one has an excuse.

Ngwenyama Ndvuna, yes we have been modernised and no longer wake up at 5am to work in the fields, but our bodies still need to be physically challenged daily; for it to process the food, juices, fizzy drinks, alcohol and emotions that we absorb. We no longer walk, but drive cars even to the corner store; hence we need physical fitness to avoid premature ailments and loss of life.

Wena Waphakathi, I beg you to inspire your people to join your physical fitness drive, as they are prematurely sharing their wealth with the pharmaceutical industry. Yes, whilst I await the jogging trip, may I wish your leadership legacy blessings of wisdom and love for the Swazi nation; God Bless Bayethe.